

Mapping and Assessment Subcommittee of the Arizona Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: June 10, 2004 - Thursday

Location: Black Mesa Ranger District Office – Conference Room
Highway 260, Milepost 307, Heber

Attendees: Jeff Cook, Show Low GIS Dept.
Rob Jones, Show Low GIS Dept.
Robb Beery, Payson Fire Dept.
Kirk Rowdabaugh, ASLD
Marty Moore, Eastern Arizona Counties Organization
Alix Rogstad, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Barron Orr, University of Arizona
Gene Trobia, State Cartographer's Office
Glen Buettner, State Cartographer's Office
John Mosier, Healthy Acre Forestry
Rich Van Demark, Southwest Forestry
Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest
Ed Paul, Tonto National Forest
Ethan Aumack, ForestERA Project, NAU
Taylor McKinnon, Grand Canyon Trust
Lew Levenson, Arizona Partnership for Forest Health
Tom Carlson, Arizona Partnership for Forest Health
Dawn Falls, Pine Fire Department
Mike Brandt, Pine Fire Department
Kathy Hemenway, Arizona Data Mapping Project (EECO/ASLD)

Action Items:

Trobia: Contact the Attorney General and prepare information for Kirk Rowdabaugh to take to the Policy Subcommittee regarding the problem that by law the state cannot give data to commercial ventures without considering the commercial value of the data. It was remarked that this is a major inhibitor in sharing data with commercial partners with whom we share interests, such as the insurance industry. It was further remarked that it may be possible to get an exclusion for data sharing for public safety. Gene will pursue the issue and get back to Kirk so that he can bring the problem to the attention of the Policy Subcommittee.

Cook: Provide White Mountains data to the State Cartographer's Office and provide updates to keep the data fresh once an arrangement is in place for data transfer (e.g., FTP).

Subcommittee: Develop specifications for mapping data to be provided to the state as part of the reporting requirements for State Fire Assistance grants. We will need to identify the information we want SFA recipients to provide, acceptable formats for the data, and reporting procedures and schedule. This will be due by January. A short statement that such data will be requested will need to go out in the announcement about SFA grant opportunities in the fall.

Next

Meeting:

The next meeting will be following the joint Governor's Forest Health Council meeting in Summerhaven on July 8. We anticipate starting the meeting at 12:30 and having lunch catered (bring money). There are issues with travel in Summerhaven due to road closures, and so we will have to plan logistics carefully. Alix Rogstad and Marc Kaplan will provide us with details.

The planned agenda will include presentations from groups doing mapping and assessment work in Southeastern Arizona related to Firewise Communities USA and the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). An update from the Arizona Fire Map Project is also planned. We plan to include ample time for discussion and also a short tour before or after the meeting.

Future

Meetings:

The subcommittee decided, as a regular practice, to meet on the same day and in the same location as the Governor's Forest Health Councils. They meet on the second Thursday of the month, in different locations. Meeting announcements and agendas are posted to the Governor's Forest Health Council website www.governor.state.az.us/FHC. To get onto the public mailing list for the councils, contact Heather Garbarino at the Department of Commerce, heatherg@azcommerce.com.

Alternative plans will likely be made for the August meeting, as the Governor's Council's meeting date (August 12) conflicts with the ESRI User Conference in San Diego.

Handouts:

Agenda (Hemenway)

Acknowledgment for those who contributed data to the Arizona Fire Map prototype— *Thanks everybody!* (Hemenway)*

The Arizona Firewise Communities Program (Rogstad)*

Grassroots Wildfire Hazard Mapping (Mosier)

News Advisory "Hidden Valley Has the Spirit" (Mosier)

Notes on Work in Southeastern Arizona (Kaplan)

News article on Greater Huachuca Mountain Fire Management Group (GHMFMG) (Kaplan)

* Included in Appendix A

Minutes

Announcements – Kathy Hemenway

Kathy briefly announced the approval of a \$225,000 grant for Arizona Fire Map from the Arizona Department of Emergency Management. This is a significant accomplishment for the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee. It was announced by Beth Zimmerman, Arizona Department of Emergency Management, in the joint Governor's Forest Health Council meeting immediately preceding the M&A Subcommittee meeting.

Kathy referred everyone to the list of announcements in the meeting agenda, as follows:

- Northern Arizona GIS Users Group meeting – July 22, 2004 in Flagstaff. If you want to attend, please contact Kristy Rees, krees@co.coconino.az.us, 928.779.6638. Kathy will be on the agenda to have a discussion with attendees about GIS work going on in the local areas related to fuels treatment projects and Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), and about how best to coordinate across boundaries and at the state level.
- Arizona Geographic Information Council Conference: October 27-29, 2004, Prescott. See agc.az.gov/agic2004.
- Firewise “Backyards and Beyond” Conference, November 4-6, 2004 – Denver. See www.firewise.org/2004conference. This conference includes many talks relevant to mapping and assessment, particularly at the neighborhood-level.

Brief Review of M&A Subcommittee Charter, History, Accomplishments, and Initiative Status – Kathy Hemenway

Kathy quickly went through a Powerpoint presentation that she developed for the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group and presented to them on May 24. The initiative history and accomplishments she presented included:

- Arizona Data Mapping Project approved by EECO (Environmental Economic Communities Organization/Eastern Arizona Counties) Board on February 19. *This has provided funding for some of Kathy's work on the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee and related initiatives.*
- Map Exhibit for Governor's Forest Health Conference & Homeowner's Workshop on March 19 & 20. *This map exhibit showcased the mapping work of many organizations throughout Arizona. It drew attention to the amount of work going on, as well as to the mapping efforts. The maps were analyzed and inventoried for use in the M&A Subcommittee's needs assessment process.*
- Needs Assessment Meetings on April 15, 22, & 29. *These long meetings were well attended by representatives from a wide variety of organizations. We identified the needs that formed the basis for the Arizona Fire Map demo and the Arizona Fire Map grant proposal. We reviewed successive drafts of the proposal that was funded on June 8 by the Department of Emergency Management.*
- Proposal accepted by the US FS Carto-Tools project. *In April we made a proposal to the national Carto-Tools project and it was presented to the Carto-Tools team by Bill Krausmann on our behalf. The team decided to move forward on three sets of fire-related templates, including templates related to wildfire hazard mitigation. Work on the templates will begin in August. The templates are intended to make it easy to create maps that are high-quality and consistent. The templates should provide leverage for the initiatives we have going in Arizona that are intended to address shortcomings in current mapping efforts. The templates should also make it easier to combine data across boundaries and to roll-up data to the state level.*
- Prototype developed by the State Cartographer's Office. *The SCO developed a prototype of Arizona Fire Map that was presented to the joint Governor's Forest Health Councils at their May 13 meeting in Pine. Jason Howard implemented the prototype as an extension to The Arizona Map. Kathy oversaw prototype data content collection and demo scripting. Thanks very much to everyone who provided data. You are listed in the Appendix to these minutes.*
- Report to the joint Governor's Forest Health Councils on May 13. *This report included:*

- *Presentation by Kathy (posted at www.azstatefire.org “Mapping & Assessment”)*
- *Arizona Fire Map demo by Gene Trobia and Jason Howard, State Cartographer’s Office*
- *White Mountains GIS Users Group Cross-Boundary Fuels Treatment Mapping Demo by Jeff Cook, Show Low GIS Department*
- *Hazard Mapping for Oak Creek Canyon by Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire Department*

The talks and demos were very well received.

- *Report to Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group on May 24. This report was very well received also. AICG showed strong support for the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee initiatives, and asked us to keep them up to date. We will report to them again later this summer.*
- *Grant proposal for Arizona Fire Map approved on June 8. Thank you ADEM!*
- *Work beginning on Rapid Assessment of Treatment History and Plans. Kathy reported that she is beginning to collect data on treatment work on-going and completed and on the associated mapping efforts. This is for a report due to the EECO Board (Eastern Arizona Counties) in order to quickly get the big picture on who’s doing what and what their data are like. The report will also serve as a basis for developing requirements and a data integration network for Arizona Fire Map. The report will be structured to showcase the efforts of the local areas, including an emphasis on CWPP and Firewise work, as well as the work of the Forest Service, BLM, and others.*

In the interest of time, Kathy omitted discussion of additional initiatives:

- *Communication/coordination website: www.azstatefire.org “Mapping & Assessment” (Development delayed while waiting for more disk space.)*
- *Investigation into the possibility of Arizona participating in the US FS Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project in FY 2005*
- *Explorations related to Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) geospatial technical support*
- *Explorations related to Firewise Communities USA geospatial technical support*
- *Coordinating with Landscape Context Subcommittee work: Geospatial tools for community growth management and land-use planning for fire safety*
- *Anticipated coordination with the Education Subcommittee*

CWPP GIS Coordination in the White Mountains – Jeff Cook, Show Low GIS Dept.

Jeff presented a demo of the cross-boundary GIS work that has been completed for the CWPP in the White Mountains. The data was collected through the White Mountains GIS Users Group and merged by the Show Low GIS Department. Much of the CWPP analysis was completed by Logan Simpson Design under contract to the counties.

In the Governor's Council meeting prior to the M&A meeting, Steve Campbell announced that the CWPP is just three signatures shy of completion and that it is likely to be the first official CWPP in Arizona. It was approved by the Navajo County Supervisors on May 17.

Jeff committed to providing the White Mountains data to the State Cartographer's Office for the state level initiatives. He said that their biggest concern is that the data be kept fresh. Jeff agreed to provide updates on a regular basis, assuming an FTP site is set up for that purpose or another arrangement is made.

CWPP GIS Coordination in the Flagstaff Area – Ethan Aumack, ForestERA Project, NAU

Ethan gave a Powerpoint presentation showing how the ForestERA project has synthesized data in support of the CWPP effort in the Flagstaff area. The CWPP effort in the Flagstaff area is led by the Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council and the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership. The coordinators are Paul Summerfelt (Flagstaff Fire Department) and Steve Gatewood (GFFP). Ethan remarked that the CWPP effort was able to pull together the data and complete the analysis work very quickly because much of the data already existed in the ForestERA repository. A draft CWPP document is about to go out for review.

CWPP GIS Coordination in the Payson Area – Robb Beery, Payson Fire Dept.

Robb gave a Powerpoint presentation detailing work in the Payson area directed toward completing their CWPP. He noted that there has been no funding devoted to the mapping component, and that consistent with CWPP policies, some areas may choose to use hand drawn maps.

Overview of Firewise Communities USA Progress in Arizona – Alix Rogstad, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Alix gave an overview of Firewise Communities USA and CWPP work going on in Arizona with a special emphasis on Southeastern Arizona. She said that most communities are combining work on Firewise with the CWPP. Kirk noted that there are some requirements in Firewise, such as a per capita annual expenditure, that are not required by the CWPPs. The overlap is in the hazard assessment and management plan.

The communities in SE Arizona that are currently working on this include Casobel, Oracle, Palominas, Patagonia, and Summerhaven. Alix presented data on acres treated in communities under State Fire Assistance and other grants. She focused on pilot work being completed in Oracle where they are using PDAs in the field to do wildfire hazard mapping. This work involves a grant from AmeriCorp through the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona.

Alix noted the need to help groups find mapping solutions. Gene remarked that Oracle is a good example and perhaps there is an opportunity for the state to conduct workshops in different areas to work out ways to standardize data collection. These workshops can help identify what fields are needed and what the minimal data content requirements are. It was stated that we need *Mapping for Dummies* and this concept was enthusiastically endorsed.

Kirk noted that we have the opportunity to require map data as a condition of reporting for State Fire Assistance grants. This concept was very well received (see Action Item). Barron and Gene raised the concern that some areas don't have mapping capacity, and Kirk replied that each area has access to federal agency partners that do have the capacity and expertise.

Glen asked Kirk whether the CWPPs will require annual updates. Kirk says that it isn't required by statute, but that the state could require updates. He said that is a bridge that hasn't been crossed. Alix noted that the Firewise Communities USA certification does require an annual renewal.

GIS Support for Firewise Communities USA in the Prescott Area – John Mosier, Healthy Acre Forestry

John presented a map showing the parcel level hazard mapping work that he and Jim Biggers have done for neighborhoods in the Prescott area. John noted that their work is featured in an article on the website for the Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC). Their grassroots approach has resulted in strong homeowner

participation and enthusiastic support. John feels that mapping is a great way to get people engaged.

He noted that their number one problem is access to data, as they are not presently seen as an official mapping effort and because they are working under a for-profit company.

Gene noted that John's work makes a nice addition to Arizona Fire Map. Arizona Fire Map, in the near term, will not include GIS data down to the parcel level. However, as was shown in the demo, links can be provided to static map images (e.g., .jpg and .pdf) like those John and Jim produced (as well as those produced by Todd Bentley of Groom Creek Fire Department).

Kirk noted that we talk a lot about assimilating and sharing data among different levels of government, but that we don't seem to talk about sharing data with commercial enterprises, such as the insurance industry. Gene noted there are limitations due to state statute. Barron noted that this limitation has put Arizona behind as a clearinghouse, yet that state level data are not high enough resolution that this should be a concern. Gene said that the state has on occasion used the approach of requiring that the developed data be made available to the state, in that way returning value to the state. Marc asked whether data could be shared on the basis that the work would result in a reduction in contracting costs. Gene said that is a possibility.

John said that Yavapai County has restrictions on sharing data, and Gene noted that even if state level data were available cities and counties could still impose restrictions.

This discussion resulted in an Action Item assigned to Gene to develop information on this problem for the Policy Subcommittee (see Action Items).

Firewise ArcView Work in the Sedona Area – Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire Dept.

Jayson's talk was postponed because he was out on a fire.

Progress in Southeastern Arizona – Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest

Marc recently began investigating CWPP and Firewise work in Southeastern Arizona at the request of the Subcommittee, and he has begun working with Alix on it.

Marc reported that Bill Hart of the Santa Catalina Ranger District (Coronado National Forest) says the Forest Service and Mt. Lemmon Fire District are nearing completion on a "participatory agreement." The agreement was requested by the Summerhaven homeowner association and Pima County. Bill coordinates Forest Service and private land activities. The latter are primarily designed by the NRCS.

Marc also reported on a conversation with Barb Eisele, chair of the “Trees for Mt. Lemmon” organization. Trees for Mt. Lemmon is focused on reforestation and participates in cone collection, etc. Barb has submitted a grant proposal to American Forest Foundation to set up a forum for more effective discussion with the US FS and other parties. Bill and Barb are involved with a group that is trying to get Summerhaven certified as a Firewise Community.

Marc also handed out an article about the Greater Huachuca Mountain Fire Management Group (GHMFMG), a large-scale interagency fire working group that is working on a fire management plan to collectively manage fire and fire-related projects on the 500,000 acres under the cooperating agencies’ jurisdictions. Those agencies and partners include: The Nature Conservancy, US FS, US Army, NPS, BLM, San Pedro Riparian Natural Conservation Area, Arizona State Parks, San Rafael Ranch State Park, ASLD, National Audubon Society, Babocamori Ranch, San Rafael Ranch, US F&WS, Arizona Game and Fish, University of Arizona, USGS, Fry Fire District, Palominas Fire Department, and Sonoita-Elgin Emergency Services.

CWPP Planning in the Prescott Area – Rich Van Demark, Southwest Forestry

Rich talked about the CWPP effort getting going in the Prescott area and targeted for completion in the fall. He said that the basis for the CWPP will be the Prescott Community Protection and Economic Development Plan. Barron asked why the economic development plan would be a major component of the CWPP, and Rich remarked that the reason is that sustainability through utilization is vital to achieving CWPP objectives. Marty noted, based on his work as chair of the Utilization Subcommittee, that biomass disposal is a major bottleneck for many communities.

Rich remarked on the importance of using textures in your maps rather than just colors, since many people don’t have color printers and some people are color blind.

Appendix A: Handouts

Hemenway Handout: Acknowledgment for Arizona Fire Map Prototype Data Contributors

Data	Thank You to...
Communities at risk	Mike Fisher, BLM, for the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group's communities-at-risk analysis
Federal agency projects	National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFORS) dashboard.nfpors.gov, spreadsheets from Susan Lee, US Forest Service Region 3
State Fire Assistance, Stephens, and other grant projects	Elaine Waterbury, US Forest Service Region 3; Mike Hart, ASLD
Forest Service WUI boundaries	www.fs.fed.us/r3/maps/gis/datasets.shtml , Candace Bogart, US Forest Service Region 3
Fire perimeters for FY2002 & 2003	www.fs.fed.us/r3/maps/gis/datasets.shtml
Fire districts	Mike Fisher, BLM
Statewide aerial insect damage survey	Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest; Steve Dudley, Coconino National Forest
Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon data	Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire Department
Timberridge (Prescott) parcel data	John Mosier, Healthy Acre Forestry
Groom Creek parcel data	Todd Bentley, Groom Creek Fire Department
Pine area project before and after photos	Ed Paul, Tonto National Forest
Flagstaff area fuels treatments	Paul Summerfelt, Flagstaff Fire Department; John Saltonstall, City of Flagstaff GIS Dept.; Steve Gatewood, GFFP
Scientifically-monitored restoration projects	Joe Crouse, ERI/NAU

Communities with Firewise™ Recognition

Timber Ridge, Prescott

Communities working toward Firewise™ Recognition Status

Cascabel
Oracle
Palaminas
Patagonia
Sonoita
Village of Summerhaven

Communities that have held Arizona Firewise Communities™ Workshops/Programs

Elgin/Sonoita
Grand Canyon National Park (14 July)
Oracle
Palaminas
Patagonia
Payson
San Carlos Indian Reservation
Show Low
Sierra Vista
Springerville (31 July)
Tucson
Village of Summerhaven
White Mountain Apache Tribe

Communities with Completed Fuels Reduction Projects

Cochise Stronghold (10 ac)
Corona de Tucson Fire District (50 ac)
Karchner Caverns State Park (10 ac)
Madera Reserve, Sauhrita (24 ac)
Oracle (50 ac)
Oracle State Park (8 ac)
Palaminas
Portal
Presidential Babocomori Woodland Hills Fire District
Ramsey Canyon (Fry Fire District)
Roper Lake State Park (5 ac)
Santa Rita Experimental Range
Village of Summerhaven (20 ac)